



Hanging of the Greens



Covenant

Metropolitan Community Church

OFFERING HOPE • SHOWING FAITHFULNESS • SHARING JOY

COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

5117 First Avenue North • P. O. Box 101473 • Birmingham, AL 35210

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Clergy Candidate Rev'd Richard Barham, Associate Pastor

Clergy Candidate: Rev'd Greg Hardy

Mark Cobb-Liptak, Choir Director

Clergy In Formation: John Foust; Susan Lowe, Tuscaloosa, Renee Carroll, Gadsden

The First Sunday in Advent November 30, 1997 Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Adams

PRELUDE

Connie Carroll

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elaine Lovelady

ONE: I was glad when they said to me,

MANY: "Let us go to the house of our God."

ONE: For the sake of all who call upon our God,

MANY: Let us say, "Peace be within you."

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 169

LITANY OF THE GREENS

ONE: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Messiah?

MANY: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

ONE: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Child of God?

MANY: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

ONE: For God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be saved.

THE BLESSING OF THE CEDAR

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this cedar branch in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who will reign forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness will purify our hearts.

BLESSING OF THE WREATHS

As the simple circle of evergreen branches signifies a life without end and the endless reign of the Messiah, we hang these wreaths to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

BLESSING OF THE HOLLY AND IVY

For early Christians the holly suggested Christ's crown of thorns, while the bright red berries signified our Savior's blood and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. The clinging ivy represented ourselves, clinging to the rock of our salvation. As we hang the holly and ivy, we rejoice in the coming of the Christ.

BLESSING OF THE TREE

We place evergreen trees in our homes and churches to remind us that Christ is the Tree of Life. We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the Light of the World. As we light our tree, let us call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Our Prayer Offerings

Randall Foster

Together, let us pray for:

the people of this congregation
those who suffer and those in trouble
the concerns of our community
the world, its peoples, and its leaders
the church universal — its leaders, its members,
and its mission

Our Tithes and Gifts

Tim Liptak-Cobb

++ THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God, Alleluia.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.
O praise God, O praise God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Choir

SERMON

Rev'd Richard Barham

COMMUNION HYMN

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

Printed

THE COLLECT CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Ragona

We look forward to the time when you will judge the whole of your creation with equity, and will bring a true and lasting peace. We anticipate with your prophets the time when people will no longer practice war; when swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Help us to know that the peace which come in Jesus the Christ is the reconciliation between us and you. Hear now our silent confessions...

CHRIST'S PRAYER

"Our Creator, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

God says to us, You are my chosen ones. I call you by name; you are mine. Know that I have forgiven you. I have entered into covenant with you and will stand by you at all times and in all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right to give you thanks and praise for you alone are God living and true.

SANCTUS:

(Sung, Choir and People)

Holy, holy, holy, O God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is Christ who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ragona

Words of Institution

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH

Christ has died.

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Note: Communion is served at the altar. Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice. You are welcome to come to communion alone, with a friend, or with someone significant in your life. Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.



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COMMUNION MUSIC

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

++THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Jesus Shall Reign

238

++OUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE

++BENEDICTION

ONE: God go with you.

MANY: And also with you.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Choir

++THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

+ + + + +

++ The congregation will please stand.

+ + + + +

WELCOME VISITORS! Your presence here this morning is a real blessing for us! We hope you also received a blessing from the service and will consider making Covenant MCC your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Card (be sure to include your Zip Code) and drop it into the offering plate when it is passed. Let us know how we can serve you. **WELCOME!**

REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK

SUNDAY

Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise	6:30 p.m.
Sylacauga Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
9 NORTH HIGHTOWER	

WEDNESDAY

Growth Group	7:00 p.m.
<i>Stress: The Things That Hound Us</i>	
Gadsden Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
THE CHURCH FAMILYSHIP HALL	

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Members	134	Agape House	\$1,000
Gadsden	19	Year to Date	\$ 979
Attendance, a.m.	83+14	Given to CAF	\$3,559
p.m.	40	Given from CAF	\$3,944
Last Sunday	\$1,059	(COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND)	
Month to Date	\$6,535	Building Fund	\$6,477

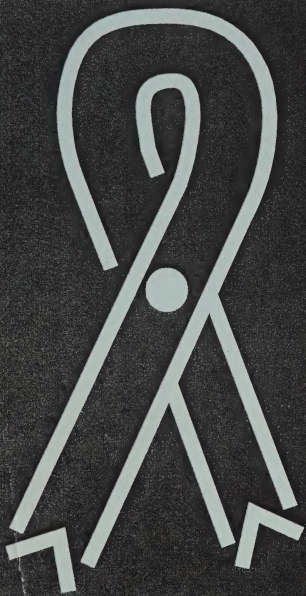
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for keeping up with your pledge. The year is almost over and we want to finish the year in the black. Please pledge an amount for 1999 that you know you will give, so that we can plan next year's budget.

Thank you for supporting Agape House. Tonight we will make our annual offering to help house those with HIV/AIDS who need a secure place to live. If you have not made a contribution to Agape House, this would be an excellent time.

Thank you for supporting our Community Assistance Fund. Because of the tornado and other needs we have given out more than twice this year than we have ever been able to give.

Tonight we will have "stars" available for you to take in order to provide gifts for the children of Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO), as we do every year. Please have your gifts back to the church by Sunday, December 13th, so that we can deliver them to BAO in time for the Christmas boxes to be filled, December 19th.



World AIDS Day

Education • Compassion • Research • Remember



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Clergy Candidate Rev'd Richard Barham, Associate Pastor

Transfer Clergy: Rev'd Greg Hardy; Clergy Candidate: Tom Lilly

Mark Cobb-Liptak, Choir Director

Clergy In Formation: John Foust; Susan Lowe, Tuscaloosa, Renee Carroll, Gadsden

Evening Worship

November 29, 1998

7:00 p.m.

**++Please stand
SINGSPIRATION**

++CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Our God is Alpha and Omega.

MANY: We are a people of many beginnings and endings.

ONE: Our Sovereign God who is and was and is to come is the Almighty.

MANY: Within God's time we each find our little times -- our memories, our concerns for today, our hopes for tomorrow.

ONE: This is the hour we set aside to worship God in deep reverence through our praise.

MANY: With our human hearts, without reason and our spirit, we rejoice in God's presence with us here, and find ourselves within God's presence.

++THE OPENING HYMN

For All the Saints (vss. 1, 2, 4..5)

614

++THE OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Betts

Presentation to Agape House

The Memorial Tree

****HYMN OF CELEBRATION**

O, That Will Be Glory for Me

132

EVENING OFFERING

Tim Liptak-Cobb

Offertory

++THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

O praise God, Alleluia.

Praise God above ye heavenly host,

Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.

O praise God, O praise God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:31-37

SPECIAL MUSIC

Randall Foster

SERMON

Carol Grizzle

COMMUNION HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

147

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Rev. Ragona

CHRIST'S PRAYER: Our Creator, who art in heaven, allowed

be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion is served at the altar; you are invited to come to the altar alone, with a friend, or with a significant person in your life. Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.

Note: Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice.

++CLOSING HYMN

When We All Get to Heaven

123

**OUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE

++THE BENEDICTION AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME VISITORS! Your presence here this evening is a real blessing for us! We hope you also received a blessing from the service and will consider making Covenant MCC your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Card (be sure to include your Zip Code) and drop it into the offering plate when it is passed. Let us know how we can serve you. **WELCOME!**

REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK

Tuesday	Choir Praise Sylacauga Bible Study 9 NORTH HIGHTOWER, SYLACAUGA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Growth Group: <i>Stress, The Things that Hound Us</i> Gadsden Bible Study 130 12TH STREET	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Birmingham Bible Study THE CHURCH FAMILYSHIP HALL	7:00 p.m.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Members	119	Agape House-Annual	\$1,000
Gadsden	19	Present	\$979
Attendance AM	83	Given to CAF	\$3,559
Attendance PM	40	Given from CAF	\$3,944
Last Sunday	\$1,059	(Community Assistance Fund)	
Month to Date	\$6,535	Building Fund	\$6,477

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COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Clergy Candidate Rev'd Richard Barham Associate Pastor

Mark Cobb-Liptak, Choir Director

In Formation: John Feust, Rev'd Greg Hardy

+ + + + +

The First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 1997

Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Moore

PRELUDE

Connie Carroll

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eddie Merrell

ONE: To you, O God, we lift up our souls.

MANY: O God, in you we trust.

ONE: Lead us in your truth

MANY: For you are the God of our salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

169

LITANY OF THE GREENS

ONE: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Messiah?

MANY: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

**With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living,
ever green.**

**With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling Christ's passion,
death and resurrection.**

ONE: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Child
of God?

**MANY: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold
the saving work of God.**

ONE: For God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the
world, but that the world, through him, might be saved.

THE BLESSING OF THE CEDAR

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also
signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this
cedar branch in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who will reign
forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness will purify
our hearts.

BLESSING OF THE WREATHS

As the simple circle of evergreen branches signifies a life without end and the endless reign of the Messiah, we hang these wreaths to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

BLESSING OF THE HOLLY AND IVY

For early Christians the holly suggested Christ's crown of thorns, while the bright red berries signified our Savior's blood and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. The clinging ivy represented ourselves, clinging to the rock of our salvation. As we hang the holly and ivy, we rejoice in the coming of the Christ.

BLESSING OF THE TREE

We place evergreen trees in our homes and churches to remind us that Christ is the Tree of Life. We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the Light of the World. As we light our tree, let us call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Our Prayer Offerings

Randall Foster

Together, let us pray for:

the people of this congregation
those who suffer and those in trouble
the concerns of our community
the world, its peoples, and its leaders
the church universal -- its leaders, its members,
and its mission

Our Tithes and Gifts

William Berry

++THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God, Alleluia.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.
O praise God, O praise God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Shannon O'Hara

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 33: 14-16
I Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Choir

SERMON

Rev'd Richard Barham

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

421

THE COLLECT CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Ragona

As we begin to anticipate the great unfolding of the mystery of your promise to come with justice and righteousness, we know our sinfulness and the need to repent. Help us to hate all sin and love righteousness. We are mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love. We ask earnestly that you will restore in us what is lacking in our faith, that we might be found blameless at Christ's coming. Hear now our silent confessions...

CHRIST'S PRAYER "Our Creator, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

God says to us, You are my chosen ones. I call you by name; you are mine. Know that I have forgiven you. I have entered into covenant with you and will stand by you at all times and in all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant:	God be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.
People:	We lift them up to God.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to God.
People:	It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Celebrant:	It is right to give you thanks and praise for you alone are God living and true.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH

Christ has died.

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Note: Communion is served at the altar. Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice. You are welcome to come to communion alone, with a friend, or with someone significant in your life. Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.

COMMUNION MUSIC

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

++THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Jesus Shall Reign

238

++OUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE

++BENEDICTION

ONE: God go with you.

MANY: And also with you.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Choir

++THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

+++++

++ The congregation will please stand.

+++++

WELCOME VISITORS

Your presence here this morning is a real blessing for us! We hope you also received a blessing from the service and will consider making CMCC your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Card (be sure to include your Zip Code) and drop it into the offering plate when it is passed. Let us know how we can serve you. **WELCOME!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK

SUNDAY

Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise	6:30 p.m.
Sylacauga Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

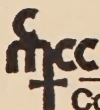
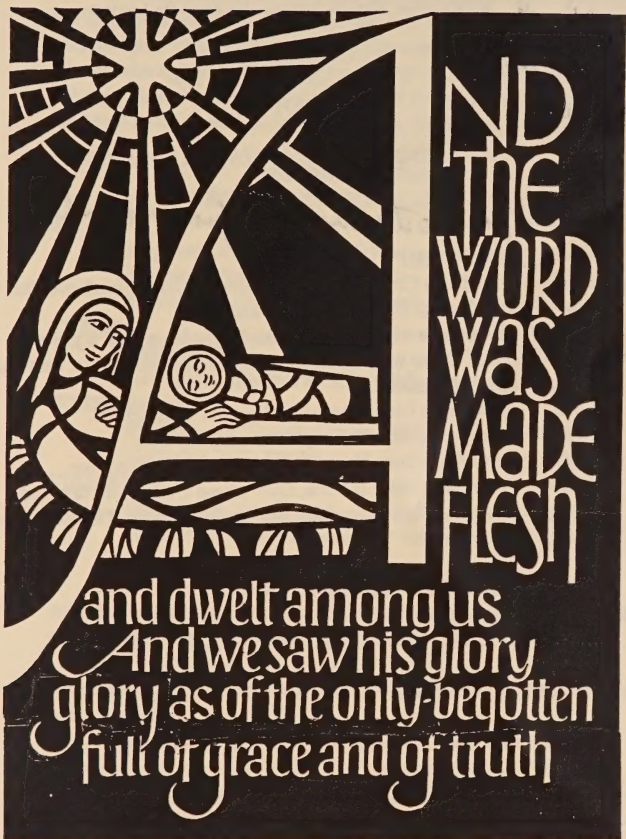
Growth Group	7:00 p.m.
<i>Luke's Nativity Passages -- All Welcome</i>	
Gadsden Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Study (Maps are available in the foyer)	7:00 p.m.
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Members	119	Agape House	\$1,000
Gadsden	19	Year to Date	\$1,123
Attendance, a.m.	107	Given to CAF	\$ 726
p.m.	59	Given from CAF	\$1,570
Last Sunday	\$2,493	Community Assistance Fund	
Month to Date	\$6,943	Building Fund	\$1,686



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(205) 599-3363 5117 First Avenue, North P.O. Box 101473 Birmingham, Alabama 35210

COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mark Cobb, Choir Director

Worship Coordinator/Tuscaloosa: Dr. Lee Rahe

Clergy Candidates: Andy Mullins (Atlanta), Greg Bullard (Memphis)

In Formation: Richard Barham, John Foust, Dr. Lee Rahe

*Rejoice the
Lord is come
(Russell)*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 1996

10:30 p.m.

THE LESSONS AND CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE

Joy to the World from Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Tonight on Christmas Eve we come with people all over the world to the presence of the Most High.

MANY: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

ONE: As we have been invaded by light, let us enlighten.

MANY: As we have been found, let us seek the lost.

ONE: As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

MANY: For to us a child is born, One whom God sends to bring peace and light, freedom and reconciliation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

++OPENING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* 193

++OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Parker

THE EVENING OFFERING

Emmett Wright

OFFERTORY

~~Dennis Luff~~
Randall Foster

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

O praise God, Alleluia.

Praise God above ye heavenly host,

Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.

O praise God, O praise God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3: 8-15

CAROL: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* 197

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22: 1-8

CAROL: ~~O Come, O Come, Emmanuel~~ *169 (Vss 1&3)*
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* 174 (Vss 1&2)

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5: 2-4

CAROL: *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* 178 (Vss 1&4)

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8-20 *luke 1: 26-35, 38*

CAROL: *The First Noel* 179 (Vss 1&2)

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 1: 18-21

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
CAROL: ~~We Three Kings of Orient Are~~ 206 (Vss 1&5)

SEVENTH LESSON: ~~Luke 2: 8-20~~ *luke 2: 8-20*

SONG: *O Holy Night* ~~Randall~~

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-11

CAROL: ~~Some Children See Him~~ *169 (Vss 1&3)*
We Three Kings

NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14

SONG: *Some Children See Him* ~~Dennis Huff~~

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Rev. Ragona

CANDLE LIGHTING

ONE: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light
shined.

MANY: Let us be bearers of that light.

CAROL: *Silent Night, Holy Night* 195

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Hear now our silent confessions...

CHRIST'S PRAYER: ~~Our creator, who art in heaven~~ *Greg Tucker*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Our Almighty God has had mercy on us and has forgiven our sins through Jesus the Christ. May God strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Note: Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice.

Please hold your empty communion cup until the basket is passed.

Please do not put your cup on the seat. Thank you.

Please come forward as the ushers direct.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

++THE CLOSING HYMN: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* 184

++OUR FAMILYSHIP CIRCLE

++THE BENEDICTION

++THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

+ + + + +

++ The congregation will please stand.

+ + + + +

Postlude
Jocatta (Symphony)
Widor

WELCOME VISITORS

We are happy to have you worship with us this evening. We hope you receive a blessing from this Christmas Eve service and that you will consider making Covenant your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Card and drop it into the offering plate when it is passed. (Don't forget your Zip Code). Let us know how we may serve you. Again, Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK

SUNDAY

Inquirers Class: Faith 1/5/97	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise	6:30 p.m.
Anniston/Lincoln/Pell City Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Healing and Growth Group 1/8/97	7:00 p.m.
Gadsden Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Study 101: Joseph 1/9/97	7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Maps are available in the foyer)	7:00 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Bible Studies, except the original Birmingham group will not meet until the week of January 5th.

Wednesday, December 25th, Merry Christmas. The church office will be closed.

Tuesday, December 31, from 8 p.m. games and fellowship, for those who would like a nonalcoholic New Year's Eve. Bring a pot of chili and join the fun around the fireplace. There will be communion at midnight.

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day, the church office will be closed.

Remember our congregational meeting, Sunday, January 12th. We will have important officers of the church to elect, as well as setting the budget for the coming year. We are planning to include an associate pastor and other paid employees and we need your voice and your vote.

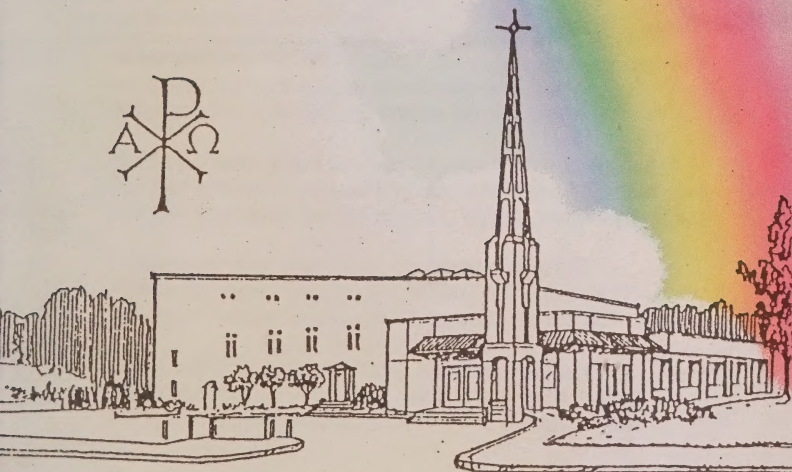
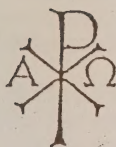
25th ANNIVERSARY

First

Metropolitan Community Church
of Atlanta

1379 Tullie Road NE - Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Phone (404) 325-4143



Reverend Reid L. Christensen
Senior Pastor

Serving the Atlanta Community Since 1972

FIRST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of ATLANTA

"Sharing God's Love - Serving Christ by Serving Others"

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, Second Sunday After Epiphany, January 19, 1997

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
11:00 AM

Dr. S. Darrell Mitchell - Director of Music

Prelude: "How Great Thou Art"

Dr. S. Darrell Mitchell, Pianist

Call To Worship: "I Go to the Rock"

The Chancel Choir
Avis Squire, Soloist

*Processional Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Copyright 1968 by Fred Bock Music Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI #241394

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!*

*Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!*

*O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!*

*Invocation

Rev. Emily Bel

The Welcome
Announcements

Rev. Reid L. Christensen

Reception of New Members

*Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Text by Johann G. Naegeli. Arranged by Lowell Mason. Public Domain. Used by permission CCL#241394

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

DEDICATION AND RECOGNITION OF FIRST MCC LEADERSHIP

Rev. Reid L. Christensen, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jay Neely, Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coordinator

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC Founder and Moderator

Special Music: "My Tribute"

Carolyn Karrh

Children's Sermon

Sarah Madding

(Children go to Sunday School)

Preparation for Prayer (Piano only)

The Prayer Of and For the People (Prayer book in Lobby)

Rev. Chip Carson

Alisa Lumbreras, Spanish

The Response:

"I Feel Jesus"

Text by Carman Copyright 1996. Sssame-O-Dat-Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission CCL#241394

I feel Jesus, I feel Jesus

I feel Jesus, in this place

Yes my soul does, burn within me

I feel Jesus, in this place.

* TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator, Founder

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Presiding

Rev. Perry: Brother and Sisters, we gather together in a hour of great Thanks giving. We seek God's blessing, guidance, and spirit as we commemorate First MCC's twenty-five years of ministry in Atlanta, GA.

Eternal and Present God, at this very special time in the life of this congregation, First MCC gives thanks in celebration for the past 25 years of ministry. We proclaim this to be the beginning of a new era of jubilation, with an even greater advancement of the gospel of Christ in Atlanta, Ga. and beyond, because of the work, the love and the faithfulness of this church.

People: Today we commemorate our past and the journey to our 25th Anniversary. We celebrate what God is doing now in our midst. We dedicate ourselves anew for the future. We further proclaim that First MCC in the years to come, will continue towards the call of Christ, to be a river of healing where once there was brokenness, and a fountain of hope where once there was despair.

Rev. Perry: God, You have heard the proclamation of these your people. Guide and empower them toward the future in the proclamation of Your Word and the Celebration of Your Sacraments, the pouring out of prayer and the singing of Your praise, the professions of faith and testimonies to Your grace, in the years to come.

All: Sanctify this church, O God, that it may always be where Your will is done and Your name glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To God be the glory. Amen.

Choral Response to Commemoration:

"I Will Serve Thee"

Text by William J. Gaither. Copyright 1969 by William J. Gaither. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI#241394

*I will serve Thee because I love Thee, You have given life to me;
I was nothing before You found me, You have given life to me.
Heartaches, broken pieces, Ruined lives are why You died on Calvary;
Your touch was what I longed for, You have given life to me.*

The Hebrew Reading: Psalms 63:1-8

*The Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-19

*The Response

"The Gloria"

Text: Jack St. John, 1979. Used by permission CCLI#241394

*Glory be to God, Creator of this world.
And to our Savior, Christ, Whose death has saved us all.
Glory be to the Spirit, Whose presence makes us one.
Glory be to God, the Blessed Three In One! Amen.*

Special Music: "Thou Art Worthy"

The Chancel Choir

The Sermon: 25 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS

Rev. Elder Troy Perry

***The Sermon Hymn:**

"Grace Greater Than Our Sins"

Text by Daniel B. Towner. Copyright 1910. Renewal 1938 extended. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
Used by permission CCLI#241394.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt.
Yonder on Calvary's mount out poured
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Chorus:

Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see Christ's face,
Will you this moment God's grace receive?

Chorus:

The Offering of God's Tithes and Our Gifts

Clare Garrard

Special Music: *"More Than Wonderful"*

Angel Blacker and Carolyn Karrh

***The Response**

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

Text: William W. How. Used by permission CCLI #241394

*We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine a-lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Reid L. Christensen

Rev. Jay Neely

The Invitation to Confession / The Time of Confession

The General Confession

O God, we confess that we have not always lived for You. You have invited us into new life, yet we have closed our eyes and ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives, God, once again. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness. Create in us a renewed openness to Your love, that we share Your love with others. Amen.

The Absolution

The Prayer That Jesus Taught Us

Angel Blacker, Soloist

The Sursum Corda

Celebrant: Our God be with you

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to our God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is a right, a good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to You, almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with all the company of heaven who forever sing to proclaim the glory of Your Name.

"The Sanctus and Benedictus"

Text: Herm Mank. Used by permission CCLI#241394

Holy, Holy, Holy, Oh God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosannah in the highest!

*Blessed is Christ, Who comes in the Name of our God.
Hosannah in the highest!*

The Consecration

"The Affirmation of the Mystery of Our Faith"

Text: Shari LaGreau. Used by permission CCLI#241394

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ is here. Christ will come again!

The Distribution of the Elements

(Use this time for silent prayer and meditation. Indicate to an usher if you physically need to be served at your seat).

The Great Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn**

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Text by Anthony J. Showalter. Used by permission CCLI #241394

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,

Leaning on the everlasting arms;

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,

Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus:

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,

Leaning on the everlasting arms;

O how bright the path grows from day to day,

Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus:

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Chorus:

*The Benediction

Rev. Elder Troy Perry

*Choral Response

Congregation & Chancel Choir

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our parent, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

*Postlude

*The Congregation Standing

Welcome Visitors !

We are delighted you chose to worship with us today
in celebration of our 25 years of ministry.

Please join us for our Silver Anniversary Reception immediately
following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

AN AIDS AWARENESS CANDLE

**(located in front of the pulpit) is lit during every worship service
in concern for those living with AIDS
and in memory of those who have died from AIDS**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Reid L. Christensen, Senior Pastor
Ms. Renee DuBose, Assistant to the Pastor
Rev. Emily Bel, Associate Pastor
Rev. Richard "Chip" Carson, Staff Pastor
Bill Leopard, Deacon Emeritus
J.R. Finney II, Deacon
Randy Starnes, Deacon
Ray Barreras, Deacon
Gamage Carter, Deacon
Glenn Haynes, Deacon
Tim Hill, Deacon
Tina Jarrard, Deacon
Lauren Soldwisch, Deacon

Clergy Colleagues

Rev'd. Rebecca Leckrone
Rev'd Leevahn Smith

Director of Music

Dr. S. Darrell Mitchell

Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Beverly Madding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Wertenberger, Vice Moderator
Carol Harris, Clerk
Ray Wilson, Treasurer
Tom Ballew
Tina Brackins
Clare Garrard
Barry Hundley
Barbara Summers

Lay Delegates

J.R. Finney II
Tina Jarrard
Randy Starnes

Ministers

All members and friends of First MCC

*"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of God
who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light;
who once were not a people but are now the people of God."*

I Peter 2:9-10

UFMCC ELDERS

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Founder & Moderator

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, First Vice Moderator

Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Second Vice Moderator & Treasurer

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Clerk

Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein

Elder Larry Rodriguez

Rev. Elder Hong Tan

GLAD DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Rev. Jay Neely, District Coordinator

Mr. Keith Mason, Assistant District Coordinator

Ms. Sharon Lindenbaum, Clerk

Mr. Don Wolford, Treasurer

Rev. Patricia Voelker, Clergy Representative

Mr. James Tallent, Lay Representative

Today's Flowers

In recognition of First MCC's twenty-five years of ministry.

"Sharing God's Love - Serving Christ By Serving Others"

and in honor of our pastor and his spouse

Rev. Reid L. Christensen and Dr. John R. Moore

Thank You...

**to everyone who has given so generously and worked so
diligently to make twenty-five years of ministry possible**

Marrell Mitchell

404-724-9201



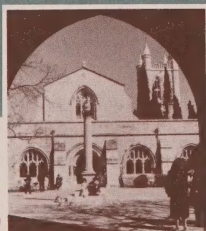
CARRYING THE CROSS OF JESUS



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN JERUSALEM



AND THE MIDDLE EAST



THE
GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The Cathedral Church of the Advent
Birmingham, Alabama

THE LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY
March 28, 1997

Officiant: Dean Zahl

The Clergy enter in silence. All kneel for silent prayer.

Officiant: Blessed be our God.

People: For ever and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 276

The Lessons

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12 Canon Warren

Silence will be kept for a time.

Psalms No. 22:1-11 (read in unison, seated)

BCP 610

Canon Sloan

Silence will be kept for a time.

The Passion Reading (the People stand)

St. Matthew 27:33-50

Canon Hotchkiss

Hymn No. 167

Horsley

Sermon

Dean Zahl

Hymn No. 168 (vss. 1-3)

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

The Solemn Collects

(kneel) BCP 277

Canon Brown and Dean Zahl

Anthem: We Adore You, O Christ

(kneel) BCP 281

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

Good Friday Greeting

The Offering

Anthem: That Virgin's Child

Thomas Tallis

That Virgin's Child, most meek and mild, alone for my sake,
His Father's will for us to fulfill, He came great pains to take.
And suffered death, as Scripture saith, That we should saved be,
On Good Friday: Wherefore I say, He mourned sore for me.

Now Christ Jesús, of love most true, have mercy upon me,
I ask Thee grace for my trespass that I have done to Thee.
For Thy sweet Name, save me from shame and all adversitie:
For Mary's sake, to Thee me take, and mourn no more for me.

John Gwynneth, c.1530

Concluding Prayer

BCP 282

Voluntary: Ah, Dearest Jesu

Johannes Brahms

Please depart in silence.

Crucifer: Jeffrey C. Allison
Cantor: Susan Williams
Sound: Spencer Leffel
Ushers: H. Steve Nash, R. William Pradat,
Michael R. McCraney, James L. Goyer, III

Easter Day Schedule

- 7:00 a.m. **Festal Holy Communion**
Cathedral Choir sings • Brass Ensemble • Dean Zahl preaches • Child care for 2 years and younger
- 9:00 a.m. **Festal Holy Communion**
Celebration Singers and Cathedral Choir sing • Brass Ensemble • A Word for Children • Dean Zahl preaches
- Children bring Mite Boxes with a flower in the "slot" to "flower the cross" • Children 3 years and older begin Service with their families • Child care for infants through 2 years from 8:45
- 11:00 a.m. **Festal Holy Communion**
Cathedral Choir sings • Brass Ensemble • Dean Zahl preaches • Child care for 5 years and younger
-

H Y M N LXXIX.

C. *Praise for the fountain opened.* Chap. xiii. i.

- 1 **T**HERE is a fountain fill'd with blood
Drawn from EMMANUEL's veins;
And sinners, plung'd beneath that flood,
Loose all their guilty stains.
- 2 The dying thief rejoic'd to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Wash'd all my sins away.
- 3 Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r;
Till all the ransom'd church of God
Be sav'd, to sin no more.
- 4 E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply:
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.
- 5 Then in a nobler sweeter song
I'll sing thy pow'r to save;
When this poor lisping stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

- William Cowper: Olney Hymns, 1779

"At present . . . I am going to Jerusalem with aid for the saints . . ."

—Romans 15:25

Beloved in Christ,

In his letters, St. Paul encourages Christians to demonstrate their support for the church in Jerusalem by giving material blessings in thanksgiving for the spiritual blessings that have gone out from Jerusalem to the world. Since 1922, Episcopalians have expressed their thanksgiving by supporting the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering.

The Good Friday Offering is a symbol of our unity in Christ with Christians in the biblical home of our faith. It is a sign of our partnership with the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as our fellow Christians there minister through worship and service, as they witness for peace, and promote the spiritual and physical well-being of the people of the Middle East.

The ministries of our partner churches in the Middle East—congregations, schools, colleges, orphanages, hospitals, clinics and self-help programs—exist as a response to the needs of this troubled region and a witness to the fullness of life in Christ. As the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East serves its people, we, as St. Paul said, *"ought also to be of service to them in material blessings."* (Romans 15.27)

We are surely a part of Christ and his ministry when we support the Good Friday Offering. We are contributors to new possibilities for peace, unity, and prosperity when we support the work of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

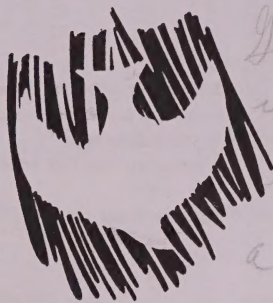
As St. Paul called to the churches of his time for help, so his words still call out to us today. I pray that you will continue to support the work of Christ in the birthplace of Christianity by giving generously to the Good Friday Offering this year and in the years to come.

Faithfully yours,
EDMOND L. BROWNING
Presiding Bishop



daring to risk, daring to grow

Palm Sunday



*God longs for
us to know
that we are
a saved & a
saving people
a redeeming people*

*More risk to
remain tightly
bound
than to
blossom*

**Prepare
THE WAY**



Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond

THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF RICHMOND

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 23, 1997

Prelude

Gene Abbott, Organist

Call to Worship

God's People

One: Come! From the city streets.

All: **Join the happy people that gather to honor Jesus.**

One: Come! From your busy homes and places of business.

All: **Put down your work in joyful celebration.**

One: Let us all join in joyful song as we turn our eyes toward the Savior
God has sent!

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus Christ who comes in God's
name!**

Processional Hymn # 173

God's People

"All Glory, Laud and Honor" (Substitute: men = souls)

Worship Chorus

Spirits of Joy

"Shout for Joy, Jerusalem!"

Invocation and Welcome

The Rev. Judith L. Maynard

Pastoral Care Concerns

Deacon Martha Pittenger

Community Greeting

God's People

Hebrew Poetry:

Psalms 118:19-29

Gospel:

John 12:12-16

Reader: This Is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks Be to God.**

Prayer--AIDS Victory Candle

Nancy G., MCC C.A.R.E.S.

Special Music

The Word Proclaimed

The Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein

Hymn of Response # 186

God's People

"The Old Rugged Cross"

*Our altar is open to ALL of God's people and the Pastors and Deacons are available to pray
with you. If needed, we'll sing # 192, "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"*

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Deacon Martha Pittenger

While the offering is being collected please fill out a prayer request slip. They can be found in the racks on the back of the pews and will be passed to the ushers following the Lord's Prayer.

Love Offering for Rev. Elder Hein

The Rev. Judith L. Maynard

The Doxology # 620

God's People

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

Invitation to Grace

Dr. Charlie Arehart

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to our God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks and praise.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right to give You thanks . . . therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with the angels and archangel and the entire company of heaven who forever offer this hymn of praise:

People: Holy, Holy, Holy, one God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory--Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God, Hosanna in the highest!

The Mystery: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Rev. Judith L. Maynard

Everyone is welcome to partake in this Holy Meal. Unfermented grape juice is served at all communion stations. The ushers will lead you to a communion server at the proper time. The following hymns will be sung during communion: 45, 47, 60, 65, 67, 73, & 74. Please join in!

The Lord's Prayer

God's People

Let Go and Let God *(please pass prayer requests to the ushers)*

God's People

Recessional Hymn # 304

God's People

"Lift High the Cross"

(Substitute: men = us)

Benediction

Dr. Charlie Arehart

Postlude

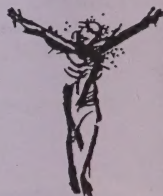
Gene Abbott & David Carter

Serving Today:

Gene Abbott, Organist
David Carter, Pianist
Laura Dalton, Worship Leader

Share with Us Holy Week!

From Jesus' Triumphant entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the Glory of Easter morning was a week that was filled with passion, love, and intimacy. It was a week in which Jesus shared the fullness of his ministry with the disciples and friends.



**Join with us as we experience
the fullness of Holy Week:**

Wednesday, 26th

11:30 a.m.

The Miracle of Jesus

Maundy Thursday, 27th

6:30 p.m.

Passover Banquet & Seder

Good Friday, 28th

7:00 p.m.

The Message of the Cross

**and experience the Resurrection with our
Spirits of Joy as they present their Easter Cantata:**

Easter Sunday, 30th

10:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Once & For All

Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond
2501 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA, 23220 λ 353-9477 or 353-9213

The Rev. Elder Dr. Charlie Arehart, Interim Pastor

The Rev. Judith L. Maynard, Associate Pastor: Minister of Community Life

Ms. Kim Bogle, Office Manager

Community Info

MEET THE PEOPLE

Who's Who at MCC Richmond!

Interim Pastor:
Dr. Charlie Arehart

Associate Pastor:
The Rev. Judith L. Maynard

Office Manager:
Ms. Kim Bogle

Board of Directors:
Grace Wood (Moderator)
Rich Cacciotti
Sam Fador
Bob Kruger
Peggy Lowell

Lay Delegates:
Stewart Ayers (1st Delegate)
Donna Copley
Pat Fridley

Board of Deacons:
Martha Pittenger (Coordinator)
Forest Carnes
James Dean
Pat Fridley
Kathy Williams

Board of Trustees:
Tom Barks (Chair)
John Donley
Bobbie Griffin
Donna Kanary
Bill Wells
Frances Whitehurst

Council of Ministries:
Rev. Maynard (Moderator)
Kim Bogle
Laura Dalton
Dale Mabry
Marc Purinton

Pastoral Search Team:
Carol Anderson (Moderator)
Board of Directors
Ron Carter
Susie Corbett
Will Langley
Marc Purinton

Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond



NEW DOMINION SANCTUARY

Worship Times:

Sundays

10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m. - Noon

The RESTROOMS, Nursery, Library, Celebration Hall, Church Office, Pastors' Offices, Community Bulletin Boards, Bookrack, Kitchen, Water Cooler, Mailboxes, and Phone (for local calls) are all located downstairs. Take a look!



"You're kidding! I always assumed that deity would not exist!"

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Leadership 2000

Daring to Go Where No Church Has Gone Before!

Don't miss District Conference in Harrisburg, PA, held during the weekend of May 2 & 3!!! What will it take to have an effective, vibrant church in the year 2000? Will it be the same as today or will we need new skills and new approaches? If we are to reach out to more people, what kind of worship and ministry will be most effective? What will be different and what will stay the same? Come hear the vision of Wendy Foxworth, Church Development Consultant, in her Key Note Address at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. As always, there will be a variety of workshops designed to address these questions and more. And there is more . . . there will be a Gospel Concert, Conference Choir, a General 12 Step Meeting, the regular Conference Business Meeting, a Banner Contest, Roundtable Discussions, and incredibly powerful & uplifting worship services! There are District Conference brochures and registration forms on the bookrack downstairs. Super Saver rates are available for forms that are turned in by March 23, and some partial scholarships are also available. If you are interested in going to conference but have never been before, call Rev. Judith Maynard, Worship Coordinator for District Conferences. She will be happy to share with you about the wonderfully fulfilling conference experience!

INSIDE

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Who's Who at MCC!

①

Spring District Conference...

①

What's Downstairs?

②

Upcoming Activities...

②

Easter Lilies & Lent Windows

JEANIE TOLBERT

Would like to thank everyone at MCC Richmond for the love and support she received in the loss of her father, Ken!

OUR ANNIVERSARY

Will be here soon! Mark your calendars for MCC Richmond's 19th Anniversary Weekend, June 6 - June 8, with The Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey!

KITCHEN UTENSILS

And supplies are needed for the church kitchen. Most of our Tupperware, utensils, and pots & pans have mysteriously disappeared. Please bring in whatever you have that can help us restock our kitchen. We also need plastic cups & silverware, paper plates & bowls, and napkins. See Tom Gallub for more information.

CHRISTIAN RETREAT

Is being sponsored by the Diocese of Richmond. The **21st Annual Retreat for Gay & Lesbian Christians** will be held April 11-13 at St. John's Abbey in Goochland. The cost is approximately \$75 (meals included). This retreat is open to all (it's not strictly Catholic in focus). Call Jeff Trollinger at 556-2332 to find out more.

VA BEACH RETREAT

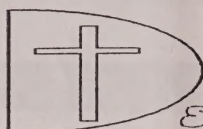
Our 2nd Annual ALL CHURCH RETREAT in VA Beach was held last weekend and was a **HUGE SUCCESS!** Around 70 people joined us for fun and learning. Thanks to all who joined us or helped in any way!

SPECIAL THANKS

To all who volunteered their time and talents for the Trustee's Work Day on March 8th. Your love for God's sanctuary is evident! Also, thanks to the Holy Grounds Group and all who helped with outdoors clean-up and Spring planting yesterday!

**EVERY FIFTH SUNDAY WE HAVE A
SPECIAL COLLECTION TO HELP THE
DEACON'S FUND**

200 F-01020



HAS AN ASSISTANCE FUND TO HELP
PEOPLE WITH UNFORESEEN
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES



NEXT WEEK
BRING EXTRA
MONEY TO DONATE.
PUT YOUR HEART
INTO HELPING
PEOPLE LIVE
BETTER

THE DEACON'S FUND EXISTS SOLELY ON
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE FUND.

YOU TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE BY
PLACING A DONATION IN THE SPECIAL OFFERING AND
SPECIFYING "DEACON'S FUND" ON A CHECK
OR JUST THROW IN CASH

Easter Is Coming!

Each year MCC Richmond "sells" *Lent Windows*. This is a wonderful way for you to remember or honor someone you love with a thoughtful message, displayed in "your" window throughout the season. The windows are sold on a first come first served basis for \$25.00 each, which includes a tent card bearing your message.

*Please contact Gene Abbott for your reservation
271-7751 or 271-8217*



Easter Lilies will also be available this year for \$10!

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

JOIN US AT 6:30 PM

As the Rev. Maynard preaches "Looking at the Whole Picture." Come back this evening and share in her dreams!

GFC/RICHMOND

Gay Fathers Coalition of Richmond invites interested gay fathers to attend its first organizational meeting on Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the library room at Church of the Holy Comforter (4819 Monument Ave. at Staples Mill). GFC is a support network for gay fathers, their partners, those in child nurturing roles, and their children. Regular meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month. For more information call 358-3015 or e-mail them at: GFCRchmd@aol.com.

BOARD POSITION

Is anyone interested in representing MCC Richmond on the *Virginian's For Justice* Board of Directors? VJ's looking for people to serve on their board as representatives for our cultural, racial, gender, sexual, and geographic diversity. Call Judy at the church office or call the *Virginian's for Justice* office at 643-4816 to find out more.

**JOIN MCC FOR
HOLY WEEK**

The back of the bulletin lists activities MCC Richmond has planned to experience the fullness of Holy Week. Please put that list in a place where you'll refer to it often!

TENNIS ANYONE?

Our tennis Ladder will be starting soon. Please call Kim at 353-9477 and leave your name, address, phone number, a self-rating for skill level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced), and whether you're interested in playing single's, doubles, or both!



Palm/Passion Sunday

March 23, 1997

Northminster Baptist Church
Richmond, Virginia

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

“**E**very time I look at this Christ on the donkey, I am reminded again
that I am seen by him with all my sins, guilt, and shame and
loved with all his forgiveness, mercy, and compassion.”

—Henri Nouwen

❖ GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

“Prelude on ‘Were You There?’”

Sowerby

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting (congregation please read **bold print**)

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the LORD!**

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Sammy Williams

❖ PRAISING OUR GOD

The Story of Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-10

Frances Shumaker

Processional Hymn No. 247

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ITALIAN HYMN

Call to Worship

Beth McMahon

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

People: That the King of glory may come in.

Leader: Who is the King of glory?

People: The Lord of hosts, Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, is the King of glory.

(after Psalm 24:7-10)

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Beth McMahon

Praising Our God

“Majesty”

“I'm Forever Grateful”

“There's Something About That Name”

❖ MINISTERING TO THE FAMILY

Children's Worship

Sandy Russell

Solo

“Open the Gates”

Tom Harris

Please sing along...

Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
flow from His throne onto His own;
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

I'm Forever Grateful

You did not wait for me to draw near to You,
But You clothed Yourself with frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to You,
But You let me hear Your voice calling me.

And I'm forever grateful to You,
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That You came to seek and save the lost.

There's Something

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus;
There's just something about that name!
Master, Savior, Jesus,
Like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Let all heaven and earth proclaim:
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name!

Invitation to Confession (in unison)

Almighty God: the day comes, more burdened than we can bear, sadness lingers in us like winter, and we know our sin. We turn away from You; we falter and fall on broken promises and empty dreams. Our hosannas catch in our throats.

Eternal God: in Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. We confess we have not hailed You as king, or gone before You in the world with praise. For brief faith that fades in trouble, for enthusiasms that fizzle out, for hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy on us.

The Silence

Assurance of Pardon (to be prayed by the pastor)

Forgive us, O God, and give us such trust in Your power that we may live for justice and tell Your love with lips and lives. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Pastoral Prayer

Sammy Williams

*Hymn No. 126

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ST. THEODULPH

✦ PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

"Improvisation on 'All Glory, Laud and Honor'"

Manz

*Presenting Our Gifts

"The Doxology"

OLD 100TH

✦ RECEIVING THE WORD

Anthem

"Hosanna to Jesus"

Choir

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:1-11

George Shumaker

Sermon

"Preparing for Easter Appearances"

Sammy Williams

✦ COMMITTING OUR LIVES

Invitation

Sammy Williams

*Hymn No. 140

"Down at the Cross"

GLORY TO HIS NAME

*Benediction

Sammy Williams

*Postlude

"The Royal Banners Forward Go"

Held

* Please stand if able

BULLETIN BOARD

HOSPITALIZED

Henrico Doctors

Luke Smith

Everett Deane

Retreat

Walter Updegraff

Jeannette Boothe

FLORAL MINISTRY

In memory of William Ferguson, remembering his birthday, given by his wife and family

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Heien Wall

508 Cedarbrooke Lane

Richmond, VA 23229

OUR SISTER AT HOME

Otie Tuck

University Park, Jefferson 4

2420 Pemberton Road

Richmond, VA 23235

EXTENDED SESSION

Babies: Grace Lewis, Whitney Hancock

Toddlers: Rita Pearson, Holly Meinhard

Threes & Fours: Scott Oostdyk, Jen Pearson

Fives & Sixes: Denise Edwards

Floater: Cindy Burch

Wireless hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.



"The mission of Northminster Baptist Church is to develop and deepen relationships with God by living and sharing Christ's love."

We are seeking to live out our mission by listening in silence for God (Psalm 46:10), by loving one another (John 13:34), and by being with the least of these (Matthew 25:40).

Every member of Northminster Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is committed to participate in Christian Ministry. The congregation has called the following to the special task of equipping and enabling members to share the gospel of Jesus Christ:

Samuel F. Williams Jr., Pastor

Tilden W. Bridges, Jr., Minister of Education

Jack A. Copley, Minister of Music

Wendy H. Dixon, Childhood Education Coordinator

Terry McMahon, Television Ministry Coordinator

W. Landon Miller, Pastor Emeritus

Sandy W. Russell, Childhood Education Coordinator

Michael H. Walker, Minister to Youth

Marianne P. Lambert, Organist

Our Worship Service is broadcast over WTVR TV-6 each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on a one week delayed basis.

**VIEUX CARRE'
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

**1128 St Roch Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70117
504-945-5390 Fax 504-945-1638**

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Pentecost 7

19 JULY 98

Worship honors God, provides an opportunity to be informed through the example of Jesus Christ, and celebrates the people we have been called to be.

You are invited to adjust references to God or humanity in order to reflect your beliefs.

*please assume an attitude of reverence.

WELCOMERS

Charlene Pitre
Don St. Pierre

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us gather with the One who is Creator,
Christ, and Spirit!

Congregation: Amen!

OPENING HYMN*

Holy God We Praise Thy Name s12

SINGSPIRATION*

Whosoever Meaneth Me #396

There Shall Be

Showers of Blessings #393

Protector of My Soul s37

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Charley

CHILDREN'S LESSON

LESSON HYMN

Thuma Mina

s2

Announcements

Pastor Dexter will be on vacation July 21st through 27th.

VCMCC will provide dinner for the residents of Lazarus House on July 23rd and August 6th. Please see David Black if you are interested in helping provide, prepare, or deliver either meal.

Please contact Wesley Foster if you are interested in participating in an on-going bible study. We will be coordinating the schedules of those who would like to participate in order to find the best time and day to meet. We will begin meeting the second week in August.

Our next leadership day will be August 8th; the Ministry Representatives will meet at 11:00am, they will be joined by the Board of Directors for Lunch at 12:30pm, and the Board will meet at 1:00pm.

The Care Ministry will meet August 9th at 1:00pm. Contact Robert Goslin if you are interested in knowing more about how we care for others.

The UFMCC Leadership Conference on Excellence in Ministry will be held August 13th through 16th. Please Pastor Dexter and all those attending this conference in your prayers.

Attendance: July 12, am 37

Staff

Verna Bennett-Tillotson - Living Room Cook

Dexter Brecht - Pastor

Marvin Ghourm - Living Room Activities Coordinator

Shirley VanDamme - Living Room Director

VIEUX CARRE' MCC

1128 St Roch, New Orleans, LA 70117

Fax 504-945-1638 Ph 504-945-5390

19 July 1998 - PENTECOST 7

This Week

Today 11:00am Worship Celebration
4:15pm Introduction to the Bible

Wednesday 7:00pm Meditation and Prayer

Thursday VCMCC provides dinner for the residents
of Lazarus House.
7:00pm Music Ministry

Friday 8:00pm Alpha Group

Saturday 1:00 - 4:00pm "Out, Proud, and Healthy"
Workshop with Rev. Margaret Walker

Sunday 11:00am Worship Celebration with
Rev. Margaret Walker and
July Birthday Party

Our Mission

The purpose of VCMCC is to foster development
through the example of Jesus Christ while empower-
ing all people to meet their needs.

We are a commissioned church of the Universal
Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. If
you would like more information about our church or
fellowship ask a greeter or contact us through the
church office.

Office Hours - The office will be closed this week.

READINGS

Amos 8:1-12
Luke 10:38-42

Don St. Pierre
Sherry Iles

MESSAGE

Shirley VanDamme

PRAYER HYMN

Blessed Quietness s73

TIME OF DEDICATION

Rev. Charley

DEDICATION HYMN

Freely, Freely # 13

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession Sherry Iles
Assurance

Thanksgiving

Rev. Charley

Celebrant: God be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

Congregation: We will give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is a good thing ... hymn of praise.

Hymn of Praise

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Holy are you, God.

Holy is your precious name.

All creation speaks to your holiness.

Blessed is the One who comes in your name;

Blessed is the One who dwells among us;

Blessed are we who know you.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Words of Institution

Mystery of Our Faith
Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ is with us,
Christ will come again!

Invitation

Sherry Iles

Distribution

(Hymn Numbers are posted for those who would like to sing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Charley

COMMUNITY HYMN*

We Are A Gentle Angry People s68

PROCLAMATION

Leader: May the spirit of peace go with us until we come together again!

Congregation: Amen!

"One In The Spirit"

Saturday, May 3, 1997

Keyboards: Mr. Garry Estep, MCC Huntsville
and Dr. Darrell Mitchell, First MCC Atlanta

The Prelude

Musicians

*Praising Our God In Song:

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

"Thou Art Worthy"

"Come Be Glad!"

The Welcome and Announcements

Reverend Jay Neely,
Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coordinator

*Hymn of Proclamation: *"They'll Know We Are Christians"*

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966. Used by permission CCLI#241394

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Creator from whom all things come,
and all praises to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Litany of Unity in Spirit

Reverend John Hankins, All Saint MCC, Atlanta

One: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ for we are all baptized by one Spirit."

All: We praise the eyes, the hands, the feet, the hearts, the minds, the ears, the tongues. Each part working for the whole. No one part superior to, or inferior to, another.

One: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

All: We are the Body of Christ in GLAD. Each of us is a part of the body. Bound together as one in God's Spirit, we celebrate the diversity of the many parts which form this body. We offer ourselves, a rainbow gift, to God's work as revealed by Christ among us. Amen.

Hymn of Response: "Blessed Assurance"

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873. Music: Phoebe Knapp, 1873. Used by permission CCLI#241394.

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of God's Spirit,
washed in Christ's blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on the sight;
angels descending bring from above,
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*This is my story, this is my story, praising my Savior all the day long,
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long,
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

The First Scripture Reading: Psalm 85:6-7 Mr. Andy Mullins, All Saints MCC

The Second Scripture Reading: I Kings 18:22-41 Ms. Debi Hyatt, Knoxville MCC

The Special Music:

Gospel Quartet
Grace Fellowship MCC, Hendersonville, NC

The Third Scripture Reading: Acts 2:14-18 Mr. Morris Jackson, Greenville MCC

The Sermon: "REVIVE US AGAIN"

Reverend Elder Don Eastman

*The Sermon Hymn: *"God Made From One Blood"*

Words: Thomas Troeger, 1989, Music: Welsh folk melody. Use by permission CCL#241394

*God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
companions who join us to walk through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.*

*We turn to you, God with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
the intimate networks on whom we depend
of parent and partner and roommate and friend.*

*We learn through our families how closeness and trust
increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet families have also distorted their roles,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.*

*Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform
sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.*

*Then widen that wisdom and grace to include
the races and view points our families exclude
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.*

Receiving Our Gifts and Offering

Mr. Ray Wilson, First MCC Atlanta

Special Music

Ms. Donna Gray and Ms. Carolyn Karrh

Communion

Reverend Tim Koch, New Life MCC, Charlotte
Ms. Wanda Floyd, St. John's MCC, Raleigh

Words of Institution/Consecration

Invitation to Open communion

Communion Affirmation

One: You, my beloved, once an alien, are now a citizen of heaven, once a stranger, are now brought home to the family of God. You, have owned my Lord, my people as Your people.

All: Under Jesus the Messiah we are one. Mutually embraced in the everlasting arms, I embrace You in mine: Your sorrows shall be my sorrows: and Your joys my joys.

One: Joint debtors to the favor of God and the love of Jesus, we all shall jointly suffer with him, that we may jointly reign.

All: Let us, then, renew our strength, remember our Sovereign, and hold fast our boasted hope unshaken to the end.

Hymn of Assurance: *"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"*

words Elisha Hoffman, 1887. Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1987. Used by permission CCLI#241394

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Benediction:

One: The Prophet Joel heard these words from God:

All: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old will dream dreams, your young will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

One: We, too, have received God's Spirit. We go forth to speak prophesy, to dream, to cast the vision. Amen.